

Leils,
Ruth

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Geils, Ruth
Swet Adeline, Inc.

X

302 S. Kenilworth
Oak Park, Illinois
July 10, 1958

Mr. H. J. Gibbons, Executive Assistant
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

Your letter of July 8 was one of the most heartening I have had in a long time. I could only wish that more of our own members were strong enough in their convictions (expressed often to me in person) to take pen in hand as you have. I'm sorry to say that most of the few letters I have received on this subject have been in an entirely different tone, and that I have been taken to task not only for my beliefs, but for having the temerity to voice them in violation of our organizational rules. Our International President herself has written me publicly accusing me of hate-mongering, fostering mistrust, violating our Code of Ethics, etc., and I shall not be surprised if some action should be taken against me. If our membership will allow this to happen, so be it. It will not change my convictions nor my principles as expressed in my letter, but it will change my mind about the fact that our membership is worth fighting for!

For five years this organization has been a shining light in my life. Every free moment outside my family and my regular job has been spent either singing or working constructively in other ways for the welfare of the organization. For me to give so much goes beyond a hobby, and I'm sure my dedication has been sparked by the appeal of the ideal expressed in our motto. Apparently this is not the case with the mass of our members, and if this proves to be true beyond a doubt, then it will be time for me to hitch my wagon to another star. "Because we have great dreams - and because we have the opportunity to make those dreams come true" must be for me, as well as for Wendell Willkie, a fact, whether it pertains to Federal government or a women's singing organization. It saddens me to know that even those who share my convictions, with the exception of a very few, are reluctant to express their feelings and risk losing the joyful elements of our hobby that go along with the unsatisfactory ones.

It's wonderful to know that there are people even outside the organization who share my convictions regarding a problem we can't expect to solve in our lifetime. What the outcome of all this will be is still unknown, but if you are interested, I'll keep you informed.

I do, indeed, recall the momentous occasion in Washington in 1955 - one of the big thrills of our quartet career. If business or pleasure ever brings me to Washington again, you may expect a call from me. Thanks again - so very much.

Sincerely,

Ruth Geils

The WHITLOCKER

WHITLOCK and COMPANY, Inc. 7425 Lake Street, River Forest, Illinois

JUNE, 1958



PAIR OF PREXIES

Fred Holmke, Captain of the winning CORONETS, and new President of the Whitlock Bowling League, accept trophy on behalf of his team from Mr. Macdonald at the Annual Bowling Banquet. Herb Slade and Addy Jellock were installed as Vice President and Secretary along with Fred, and the new officers are already making plans for next season.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO TRAIN FOR FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF WHITLOCK

by Jim Dickinson

S. T. Macdonald and B. L. Johnson announced the formation of an Executive Committee for Whitlock and Company, Inc. on May 15. This committee will develop into a policy-forming body for the firm.

Herb Slade was named Chairman and Don Berbaum, Secretary, for the balance of the year. Other members are John Hyer, Lew Mottice, Gene Ryndak, Jim Dickinson and Lyford Gaeil.

Broader employee observation of how company policy is now established will be an immediate effect of the committee's formation. The executive group, representing all facets of Whitlock's operations, will eventually have the mission of directing the firm in the best interests of company stability and long-range growth.

As initial assignment gives the body is to make an examination of hospitalization insurance plans. It was felt that broader coverage than is now available can be obtained for Whitlock employees.

AS THE TWIG IS BENT

It was with a feeling of great pride that we viewed the private showing of the film, AS THE TWIG IS BENT. Certainly it was a thrill for every Whitlocker to watch this story unfold on the screen, and to know that we are an integral part of the vital roll our newspapers play in the American way of life.

ICMA ACCEPTS FILM

A private showing of the film for the Board of the International Circulation Managers' Association resulted in wholehearted acceptance and approval of Whitlock's efforts on behalf of public relations for the industry. The ICMA will, in fact, handle the promotion and distribution of the film, which will be premiered at the convention for circulation managers in Kansas City this month.

The following quotation is taken from the story about our film that appears in the June issue of the ICMA's OFFICIAL BULLETIN:

"Over a year in the making, 'As The Twig is Bent' presents the newspaperboy story against a background of the many operations that go into making a daily newspaper. The movie forcefully drives home the fact that newspaper jobs provide a positive antidote to the evils of idleness and juvenile delinquency. Statements made by J. Edgar Hoover in this film add prestige and authenticity to the timely message presented.

"This is a true story about young citizens we have all seen and know viewers will see how these young men earn an adult sort of recognition and a sense of responsibility while learning to practice the finest traditions of free enterprise."

"A classic, indeed, to impress newspapers and the public with the high calling of boys in the business world, and carrying a message to the public to place high esteem in route carrying," was the consensus of opinions expressed by those who have seen the film.

NEW FACES



The cooey little blonde with the pony tail who sprees so often to make our visitors and guests feel welcome is BETTY ECK. Betty formerly worked for an eye specialist in Chicago Heights, and commutes all the way from Park Forest. It's not easy to replace someone like Free Tessler, but Betty, with her pleasant voice and helpful manner, is gaining the admiration of the Whitlock staff every day.

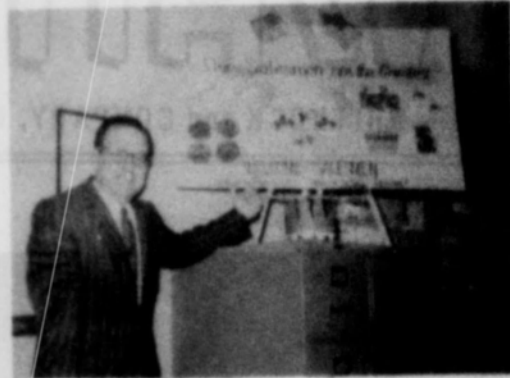


CLARE CRAIG, new Accounting Assistant, taught school in Michigan for six years prior to entering the marines, after which he spent two years in public accounting with Arthur Young & Co. Clare is married and the father of one-year old Kevin, whose picture he will proudly display upon your request!

Pretty blue-eyed DIANE BIERER of Fulfillment was formerly employed at W. W. Greger. Diane has already announced her intention to take to the horses at our picnic in August, since riding is among her favorite outdoor sports. This little Whitlocker will not decrease her love life, at least not with The Whitlock staff! How our reputation spreads!



Mother of three teenagers, though you'd never believe it, is charming LOIS REXROAT of Whitlock Sales. Lois' children bear the delightful names Faith, Bryce, Jr. and Alec. The family members are confirmed west suburbanites, having lived in Oak Park most of their lives.



JIM DICKINSON, Promotion Manager, comes to us from Holpoint - maybe that's where he picked up all those hot points that have set the department on fire (ouch!). Jim is pictured in his usual roll of making the sales staff feel at home above, and below he is displaying another "new face" - that of the Promotion Department itself which has recently undergone a face-lifting job. Bob and Dave smile their approval of the new setup.



CAROL KIELMIEM formerly worked as a legal secretary in LaGrange, but finds the Whitlock operation in the Fulfillment Department much more to her liking. Carol and her Mom live in Cicero, and since Carol admits she loves to sing, she's a likely candidate for the Sweet Adeline chapter just a few blocks away! Carol indulges in sports at every opportunity.

Beaming over her move to the Sales Department is cute freckle-faced ARIENNE WOOD, who hosts a Liberal Arts degree from Michigan State. Our newest secretary will be married July 19 to Lyn Ackerman. Did you happen to notice the predominance of blondes among our newcomers?



....AND STILL MORE!



Friendly competitors Dick Chase and Jack Guiney get acquainted after attending their first sales meeting.

John Hyes, who rates congratulations for his recent promotion to the post of Division I Manager, is introducing JACK GUINEY, who comes to us from Oakbrook, Wisconsin where he was Circulation Manager for the Oakbrook DAILY NORTHWESTERN. Jack, Leola, and their brood of five have already moved to Mt. Prospect.

Law Motrice is announcing that RICHARD L. CHASE, formerly Circulation Manager of the La Porte HERALD-ARGUS, joined Division II on May 19. Dick, his wife Janet, and Sheila, Sandra and Jeffrey are planning to move to Bensenville before the month is out.



GRACE EBERT, no longer a new face in Accounting, missed the last issue by one day! Grace and husband Eddie, a "do-it-yourself" pair, spend every available minute working in the house and yard of their new home in Bellwood.

WHAT'S NEW IN WHITLOCK SALES?

Lyford Gaeil is introducing with pride his newest salesman in the person of RUSS FRYER, who recently transferred the contents of his desk to a new one in the ever-growing Whitlock Sales.

MURIEL GRAMKE's return to Whitlock Sales was cause for rejoicing not only because we were glad to have her back, but because this means the good Dr. Gramke has improved sufficiently to resume his practice.



LIFE VISITS WHITLOCK

Mr. Wendell Forbea, Circulation Operations Manager of the newly-formed LIFE CIRCULATION COMPANY, and Mr. Scott Price, Agents' Sales Division Manager, enjoy coffee with Don Berbaum during their March 26 visit to our office.

FRANK MILES

The sudden and tragic death of Frank Miles was a stunning blow not only to the entire Whitlock staff, but to his legion of friends in the publishing industry throughout the country. Although Frank had been with us for less than two years, he was widely known for his previous connections with Down Beat, Esquire, Advertising Age, and The Hanson-Bennett Agency.

Many letters have been received expressing heartfelt sympathy from Frank's friends in the industry. In searching for the right words to express the feelings aroused when someone who is an integral part of our lives is suddenly gone from our midst, we find the words of Aristophanes, quoted in a letter received from Mr. Harry Radcliffe, Vice President of Nature Magazine.

"Your lost friend is not dead, but gone before, advanced a stage or two upon that road which all must travel in the steps he trod."

WAYNE HESSON

The shattering news of Wayne's death, just as we go to press, leaves us too shocked to do more than express our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Hesson and the children.

PICNIC PLANS TAKING SHAPE

Circle August 7 on your calendar right now. That's the day we close shop to spend a day getting acquainted at Whitlock's Second Annual Picnic. When you see the schedule of activities, you'll want to arrive early to be eligible for one of the handsome door prizes.

Golfers will tee off at 8:00 A.M., and morning fun for the rest of us begins with badminton, horse shoes, soft ball and Bingo, with the playground offering delights for the kids. The swimming pool opens at 10:00, and in-and-out privileges come with the cost of your ticket. The horses are right across the road, if you prefer to spend your morning jogging along the trails.

Bring your own picnic lunch, or your grill, if you wish to add cooking to the day's fun.

The afternoon will feature all the morning activities, plus a baseball game and planned recreation for kids and adults.

At 6:00 P.M. a feast will be served, and if you still have some energy left, you may want to stay for an evening of dancing.

Bring your husband or boy friend, your wife and your children (and your beer!) and join us at the Villa Olivia Country Club.

WHITLOCKERS

It's a well known fact that Whitlockers will burst into a party at the drop of a hint that there's a wedding, a baby, a farewell or an anniversary in the offing! Added spice went into the plans for our First Anniversary Party because we managed to

keep it a secret from STM and BLJ (unless they're awfully good actors!). Celebrating the move to "the country", we convened in the Stock Room Inn on April 7, where table cloths and fresh roses transformed it into an appropriate setting.



Henry, Grace and Alice admire the beautiful cake, a facsimile of our building complete with landscaping, waving flag and replicas of our boxes.



Mr. Johnson and Mr. Macdonald cut the first slice, and the cake was soon heartlessly demolished by the hungry hoard, along with the sandwiches and coffee!

The party which took place on April 30 was occasioned by the pending marriages of Mary Alice and Cathy, the birth of Greg Spears, and the farewell to Pat and Fran, both of whom left to await the arrival of one little Muska, in the roles of mother and grandmother, respectively.



Whitlockers are amused as usual at STM's witty remarks as he dispenses gifts to honored guests.



Mary and Cathy will be back, but it was "goodbye" to Pat and Fran. Not present for the occasion was Harry Spears, who was out beating the bushes for Whitlock, as usual.



Carol and Myrtle are enthralled at the lovely gifts presented to the lucky five by the management and the Flower Fund.



No question that the shower given Cathy by Barb Zimmerman was a complete success, even though there are only three empty champagne glasses on the table at the moment - and five giddy girls.

The girls in the picture on the right report that the portions of cake cut by Cathy were intended to belie her Scotch ancestry!



LOVE PARTIES

Biggest party of the year took place at Menard's Black Steer when the Whitlock Bowling League and guests gathered to celebrate a successful first season, pay tribute to outgoing

officers and install new officers. Following the fabulous dinner and a period of dedication to the ample bar facilities, prizes of all kinds were awarded by Prez Mac.



Yeaaa?



Champf



Jayna!



Kibitzer!



Tak!



Good!



Congo



Ho!



Stup!



Ho!



Empty?



Smiles



'Erezow!



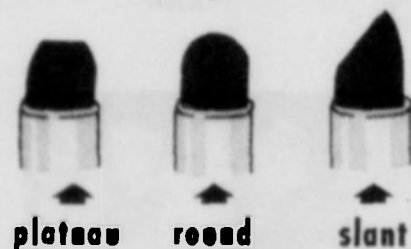
Really?

PSYCHOLOGISTS CLAIM LIPSTICK REVEALS TRAITS OF A GIRL'S PERSONALITY!

According to a group of modern psychologists, a woman's lipstick provides a quick and fascinating way to analyze her personality. The clue is the way she wears it down.

Since time began, men have been striving vainly to gain insight into the mental mechanics of women. Women, too, have been seeking ways to glean the secrets of other women!

Of course, you may or may not agree that the accompanying pictorial personality probing has any basis in truth - but you WILL agree the thought is most interesting!



ROYAL VISITOR



Pictured in the royal garb usually reserved for Whitlock salesmen is Mr. Larry Nash, who is in charge of purchasing for the CINCINNATI ENQUIRER, while Mrs. Nash prepares to crown her husband. Both the Nashes and the ENQUIRER are among Whitlock's oldest friends, and it was a great day when they dropped by for their first look at our building.

OVAL: shows intelligence, practicality and a good sense of proportion, but you're just a bit distant. These qualities are a help in law and journalism, but a hindrance to novelists and children's writers.

ROUNDED: means you're orderly, patient, cheerful and considerate, have well-defined goals which you're confident of achieving. Since you're thrifty and energetic, you'd make a fine secretary or banker - only a so-so artist.

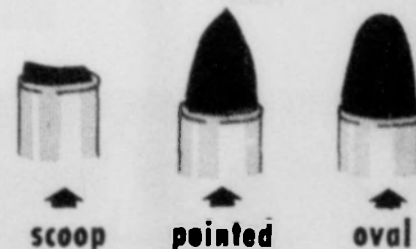
SLANT: you're versatile, creative, effervescent, but moody and unrealistic - the true artistic type who might find bookkeeping or secretarial work baffling.

PLATEAU: shows ambition, perseverance, disdain of trivia, extreme competence, and a tendency towards abruptness...all the characteristics of a brilliant surgeon or writer, but not of a nurse or school teacher.

SCOOPED: denotes obvious thrift, but less apparent are your sensitivity, affection, love of travel, and preference for doing rather than watching. Lucky the child with you for a teacher, but woe to an office if you're chained to a desk!

POINT: you cherish accuracy, neatness and the dramatic, like chic clothes and surroundings. Ideal outlets are photography and interior decorating - steer clear of public contact and deadlines.

(reprinted from unidentified house organ)



HI, NEAL!



Another "king for a day" displays his pleasure in the visit of some of the boys. Mr. Beliles is keeping his scepter in, as you can see, and takes an active interest in all Whitlock affairs. We hear by the grapevine that the Beliles are headin' south as soon as Beverly is out of school. We'll let you know as soon as this rumor is confirmed.



Norma Bergeron and Mike

If you're a dog owner and have problems involving the care and welfare of your pet, consult Norma Bergeron, who spent ten years of her life raising and breeding cocker spaniels. Norma is a storehouse of information on the subject of dogs. Discussing the canine species with her brings a light to her eyes that leaves no doubt as to how she feels about them.

Norma is no longer actively involved in her beloved hobby, having lost her husband and partner over two years ago. She concentrates all her attention now on a little guy she calls "Mike" whose registered name is "Bergeron's Merry Gentleman." Mike is not only a joyful pet in every way (and as spoiled as a baby, says Norma) but has won his share of ribbons.

Norma has lost count of the number of cockers she has bred and sold over the years, but figures it must run close to 200! At one time she owned five females, all of which were exceedingly prolific. It's no wonder she showers all her attention on Mike, now that he is her sole pet.



A few of Norma's choice specimens - that's Mike in the lower left corner.

Raising dogs, as Norma did, strictly as a hobby, is a most unprofitable venture, and requires unlimited time and attention. It's not possible to handle each a task alone. Puppies, once weaned, require not only special diet (including eggs, cod liver oil, milk and Pabulum) but often must be taught to eat.

Many a night Norma set up with a sick dog, and the same loving attention is required every time a litter of pups arrives. Sometimes a Caesarean operation is required, and the dog owner must be alert to spot trouble before it becomes serious.

While Norma is a member of the Skyline Cocker Club and has taken part in many shows, her favorites are the "puppy matches" where pups under one year of age are shown. Some of the points the judges look for are set of the ears, eye coloring, space between front legs, amount of coat, and markings. The best cockers, according to our expert, have brown around their eyes, with faces liberally covered with spots, as is Mike's.

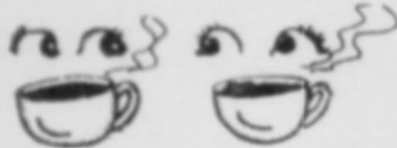
Did you know it's a mistake to refer to a dog's "pedigree?" Norma tells us that the correct description is "pure bred" or "thoroughbred." Among Norma's reasons for preferring the cocker breed is that they make perfect house pets, both in size and nature. A little-known fact about cockers, too, is their hunting ability. Mike's grandfather has an unbroken record to this day in field meets.

Norma still maintains her spacious home in Villa Park, with its acre of ground and kennels. Although she now shares it with two young friends of human "breed" you get the feeling in talking to her that her reluctance to part with her space and equipment has to do with her hopes for the future, which might include the reopening of "Bergeron's Kennels."

It's a well known fact that people who love dogs are mighty fine folks, and this is certainly true in Norma's case. If it takes dogs in quantity to make her happy, then we hope she some day cango back to her beloved hobby.



OVER THE COFFEE CUPS



Silma Happe and Carol Dakter created a sensation the first day they blew in with their chemises! Haaa! been so much hilarity since the Christmas party, but we've noticed a lot more courageous Whitlock gala supporting the efforts of the garment industry now that the ice is broken!

If you didn't attend the Howling Ransquet, you missed STM's sage comment:

"The un-cinched look Of the new chemise, Must make men wonder Where to squeeze!"



Lucky Gloria won the raffle tickets for "The Most Happy Fella," a Picnic Committee ways and means venture.

Pat Hesse started the vacation season by spending three weeks in California with hubby Carl. The kids had a ball, and blonde Pat returned looking like a Hollywood star with her deep tan.

The girls in Tab and Fulfillment worked so hard at keeping Cathy's shower a surprise that no one offered her a ride to Barb's house and she had to walk. Were they surprised when Cathy and Barb confessed that she knew it all the time!

Putting their money on the winning horse in the Derby pools were Steve, Norma and Frank Pantuso. Frank, who represents Chicago Paper Company, took the last chance in the third pool just to help Freddie out! Pays to be nice to Whitlockers.

A case of ptomaine poisoning almost ruined Helen McMahon's Florida vacation, but she recovered in time to hank in the sun for a week and acquire a red nose, making the rest of the secretaries green with envy.



Hairdoes or clothes, Carol's the moa'. (Pretty good secretary, too)

"SPEARS DOES IT AGAIN" reads the headline on the special edition of the Chicago Sun-Times published by our Promotion Department in honor of the birth of Gregory Spears. Harry's astonishment is plainly visible at finding his desk littered with magazines carrying instructions on baby care and "It's a boy" cigars!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE	JULY
23 Dot McAvoy	5 S. T. Macdonald
24 John Herr	9 Carol Kiehlman
26 New Dakter	9 Bob Hagen
27 Diane Herer	13 Muriel Gramke
	14 Pat Hesse
	15 Dave Wilson
	20 Carol Dakter

WHITLOCK and BARBERSHOP

(an editorial)

Most of you know of my interest in barbershop harmony. I've been silent on my favorite subject in these pages only because I couldn't think of a good reason to mention it!



The accompanying photo of the WHAT-ARE WE SINGING FOUR breaks the ice, and is proof positive of the old saying (I say it all the time) that singing keeps you young. Taken several years ago, these boys haven't changed a bit. Former chairboy Berry (see April issue, WHO IS IT?) still wears an angelic expression. Spears and Berbaum looked the same in the pick-up quartet organized in the back room at the last Christmas party. I know because I was singing tenor. Fryer looks even younger when his eyes are not glazed. Wish there had been a recorder attached to that mike so we could hear whatever they're murdering!

But you didn't know that STM's introduction to Whitlock took place at a Colorado convention when he, a young Kansas circulation manager, was drafted into a quartet by Mr. Chris Simpson, President of Whitlock! Suppose he hadn't been able to sing bar!

Currently, the KEY NOTERS, a Kansas quartet, has been booked by Whitlock to perform for the ICMA members at the June convention, and a Sweet Adeline quartet called the NOTABELLES entertained at our official Open House a year ago. (I know, cause I was singing lead.)

The WHITLOCKER

By, For and About Employees
WHITLOCK and COMPANY, Inc.

Ruth Gelle
Editor

Virginia Bernard - Gloria Desideri
Bob Hagen - Wilma Hesse - Dave Wilson

Associate Editors

Vol. I JUNE, 1958 No. 5

✓
Gails, Ruth
Sweet Adelines, Inc.

July 8, 1958

C
O
P
Y

Miss Ruth Gails
Sweet Adelines, Inc.
302 S. Kenilworth Ave.
Oak Park, Illinois

Dear Miss Gails:

Your memo to Narcille Gouger, President Sweet Adelines, Inc. has come to my attention and I am writing to extend to you my compliments on the position you take. You are to be commended for this very decent attitude which prompted you to take the position you have.

It has always been a mystery to me how religious people can reconcile discrimination and segregation with the religious convictions. Discrimination in any form does violence to the simplest ethical and moral principles.

Again my congratulations to you for your excellent stand on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

H. J. Gibbons,
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJG/yk

P. S. You will probably recall our meeting on the occasion of your group singing at our dedication of our Building in Washington.

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Gzils, Ruth
Sweet Baselines, Inc.
NAACP

July 8, 1958

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Herbert Hill, Labor Secretary
NAACP
20 West 40th Street,
New York 18, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hill:

I thought you would be interested in seeing
the attached letter which certainly is a fine
statement on the part of Ruth Gzils.

Sincerely yours,

H. J. Gibbons,
Executive Assistant to the
General President

HJC/yk
Enc.

Ruth Gells, Regent
North Central Region #1
Sweet Adelines, Inc.
302 S. Kenilworth Ave.
Oak Park, Illinois
June 10, 1958

*Post Office
Sweet Adelines
Castle Bldg
Tulsa, Okla*

MEMO

To: Narcill Gouger, President

Re: Amendment to Corporate By-Laws and
Government Structure of Sweet Adelines, Inc.

In view of the resolution submitted by my Region which endorsed the resolution of Region #1, regarding the then proposed action of the Board in restricting negroes from membership, and in view of the subsequent action of the Board as announced in your May 19 memo, I feel called upon to protest vigorously this action of the Board, as well as the system of government that brought it about.

The first paragraph of your May 19 memo is apparently an attempt to justify the action of the Board by stating opinions masqueraded as reasons. In this highly-opinionated paragraph only two facts stand out. In whose opinion does the amendment "fulfill the needs as well as the wishes of the past, present and future membership"? In whose opinion was this done for the "continued success, health, growth and harmony of Sweet Adelines, Inc."? And, indeed, in whose opinion is the definition of the word "white" construed to include the Oriental and Indian races? I am sure that many other members besides me can and will advance personal opinions that will condemn, rather than justify, the action of the Board.

The only facts apparent in the entire first lengthy paragraph of this memo are (1) the statement regarding the authority of the Board in amending our By-Laws and (2) the fact that the By-Laws were amended. There can be little question that under our present government structure the Board does have the authority to amend our By-Laws in any way it sees fit, REGARDLESS of the needs or the wishes of the membership, and REGARDLESS of the continued success, health, growth and harmony of Sweet Adelines, Inc. Eloquently unspoken in this paragraph is the additional fact that no effort was made to ascertain the wishes of the membership before the final vote was taken inserting the word "white."

The portion of the membership who felt strongly enough on this subject to present their views at their Regional Council Meetings and subsequently to the Board via resolutions (the only method available to them) were not represented. Had each of the Regions that filed resolutions opposing the action of the Board been represented on the Board by an eloquent spokesman who understood the reasons behind the resolutions and who were capable of representing the wishes of their membership, I do not believe the Board would have voted to admit this discriminatory word into our By-Laws! The fact that only four or five of our Regions felt strongly enough to file such resolutions is no assurance that the balance of the membership was in favor of the proposed amendment. On the contrary, in view of the repeated assurances of the Board that it truly represents the membership, many members might not feel it necessary to express their views in advance, feeling confident that adequate consideration would be given both sides of such a vital question before any action was taken, and placing their confidence in the discretion of the Board to make sure its action genuinely reflected the wishes of the membership. No doubt many expected to be contacted through their chapters or Regions so that the Board could have the benefit of their opinions prior to voting the change into effect. Others, it cannot be denied, would not trouble to express their opinions at any or the other because of apathy that affects a considerable portion of our membership on every subject. This attitude we expect and learn to live with - the unwillingness of many of our members to enter the fray when all they want to do is sit back. Still another larger group did not express their opinions because they were totally unaware of the proposed action, the announcement of which was cleverly hidden by the rewording of the minutes of the Miami meeting, where the intention to exclude negroes was verbally announced. Since only a very small percentage of our members attend International Convention, it can be assumed that only a small portion knew what the proposed action involved before it was an accomplished fact.

In response to the second paragraph of your May 19 memo, I do not agree that the majority of our members has always been aware of the "consistent attitude" maintained by the organization. As an example, I cite my own case. Because of my personal antagonism to discrimination in general, I ascertained before joining Sweet Adelines that no such law disgraced our By-Laws. Being therefore content and having no reason to pursue the subject further, it was not until some three years later upon the occasion of the Mota-Belles' contemplated trip to the Far East that the Executive Secretary advised my quartet of this "unwritten policy," cautioning us to use care in any efforts we might make toward encouraging interest in the organization while overseas. Had this particular occasion not arisen, I feel sure I would not have known about such an unwritten policy until the announcement at the Miami Convention. Since I have always been more active than the average member, and certainly as interested as any, I have no way of knowing how this unwritten policy could be well known by any except those who have been faced with a problem of some sort, and have therefore become informed, as I was. No doubt the "consistent policy" has been aired most often on those occasions when a member of the minority race held in contempt by our By-Laws applied for membership. At the time of being informed of this unwritten policy, I took violent exception to it and stated in no uncertain terms to the International President that should a policy ever be admitted to our By-Laws, I would immediately resign my membership in Sweet Adelines, Inc.

Since that time, which was early in 1956, two vital factors have developed to make such precipitate action on my part inadvisable: (1) I have been unanimously re-elected to an office by a large segment of the membership who regard me as their greatest hope of being heard; and (2) I do not believe that the action of the Board represents the wishes of the majority of the membership. Until such time as I am convinced that this is the wish of the majority, I am bound to continue in my efforts to assist in finding some way for the wish of the majority to become the deciding factor in the forming of the policies.

While I agree that legally and technically our organization can be called a "selective social organization" I question the moral right of such an organization to appeal to the masses by the use of public performances, newspaper publicity, and a motto such as we have, in an effort to grow and expand. Unless our organization is prepared to accompany its announced intention to "Harmonize the World" with the abiding love of mankind necessary to overcome racial prejudice, we have no right to use this motto as an extension tool, thus drawing upon the imagination and ideals of both members and prospective members. Were we, in fact, the kind of "selective social" group implied in the May 19 memo, our hobby would be similar to so many other women's groups (bridge clubs, sewing clubs, etc.) that do not have the magic ingredient - emotion - that plays so large a part in our devotion to our hobby.

Those of us who take an active part in singing and/or directing barbershop harmony, and who work the hardest toward extension, will confess that barbershop for us is a deeply emotional experience. A chorus or quartet that is singing barbershop correctly is absolutely transported. Certainly there are many technicalities that must be mastered, but the ingredient of emotion is a strong one in the successful interpretation and rendition of barbershop harmony. Members who have not personally achieved thrilling success in chorus or quartet singing receive their emotional experiences vicariously by listening to it as often as possible. The prospect of some day, somehow being a part of a ringing chord in perfect balance and blend is what keeps hundreds of our members working against extreme odds, with the hope of eventually helping to produce that sound that satisfies the soul of the true barbershopper. With such hope in their hearts, or with the thrill of achievement to carry them on, our members work diligently on ways and means projects, membership drives, and devise many other ingenious ideas for insuring success. Can it be denied, then, that deep emotion is the very heart of our organization, and the element chiefly responsible for the success of those groups which have reached the top?

It is my sincere belief that any attempt to remove the emotional factor from Sweet Adelines, and to reduce it in scope to that of a typical women's organization, will mean the slow but sure death of our organization.

How, then, can a hobby that works on the emotions of women on a wholesale basis, that has already brought together in perfect harmony women of all ages, sizes, backgrounds and creeds, be construed literally as a "selective social organization"? Having overcome incredible differences already, why is it not possible for us to go one small step farther? How many of our most sincere hard-working members can honestly say that should a colored member be admitted to Sweet Adelines, Inc. they would resign? A group of women inspired enough to be actively singing barbershop as a chorus is too busy attempting to "Harmonize the World" to feed on its feelings of discriminations against other women, regardless of their race, religion or creed, especially since the two are totally incompatible.

For several years now there has been a growing dissatisfaction expressed by the membership in meetings and resolutions regarding the government of Sweet Adelines, Inc. In the interest of our continued health, growth and harmony it has been apparent for some time that a change is in order. The Board, however, has not yet seen fit to amend the Corporate By-Laws to satisfy the membership, although I have heard more grumblings on a "nationwide basis" because there is no limitation of ex-Officio Board members than because there has been no limitation of membership clause! Yet in six short months, our By-Laws have been amended in one respect, while in other (and more vital) matters, the membership is led to believe that it's easier to alter the Constitution of the United States than the Corporate By-Laws of Sweet Adelines, Inc.! Complicated committees, bound up in red tape, must be formed to find a way to recognize Regions in our By-Laws, and months or even years of study must be given to this seemingly insurmountable problem.

It now becomes apparent that, in matters deemed important by the members of the Board, rather than the members of the organization, fast action can be taken behind closed doors while trite phrases are written in honeyed tones to calm the fears of the vitally concerned membership until the time is changed, to all intents irrevocably.

In reply to your statement that "integration is controversial" I contend that segregation is the more controversial, and I charge the Board of Directors with introducing controversy on this question. I know of no case, nor have been told of any, where controversy on a "nationwide basis" has developed because of a colored applicant. Such controversy is much more likely to develop because of this action of the Board, in my opinion. You state that the racial problem is "unhappily still in a highly controversial stage." I ask you how it can ever be otherwise as long as an organization such as ours sings about harmonizing the world with a song with hypocrisy in their hearts? Are we parrots that we sing words with no cognizance of their meaning?

I further contend that the "laudable cause" of attempting to overcome racial prejudice is NOT foreign to the stated purposes of our Corporate By-Laws, and that the restriction just admitted IS A DIRECT VIOLATION OF OUR CODE OF ETHICS, ITEMS 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7.

I would like to know what action was taken by the Board calculated to bring about the results stated in the last paragraph of the May 19 memo. There is, in this final paragraph, an unhealthy hint of an effort on the part of the Board to stifle freedom of speech and of the written word on the part of the membership. What sort of action by a governing body of any organization such as ours is possible that would bring about fear and intimidation to such an extent that no one will speak on a subject such as this one? Such an implied threat can only make our membership more quickly aware of the fact that they are discouraged from taking part in the formation of policies, which policies they are, nonetheless, REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT, BUT NOT ALLOWED TO DISCUSS.

Regardless of the issue involved, or the individual members' feelings regarding this particular problem, I do not believe that any member whose religious, moral, democratic or humane principles are offended by any action of our Board of Directors can be coerced into keeping silent.

Any government fostering such gross injustice as this must be compared with a dictatorship, and I have a deep and abiding faith in the membership of Sweet Adelines, Inc. to resist such methods with every ounce of their individual and combined strength until their voices are, indeed, a part of the ringing chord that proclaims their freedom of spirit.

Sincerely

Ruth Geils

Ruth Geils
Regent #3

Region #3 chapters
cc: International Board
ex-Officio Board Members
Regents
upon request